



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—JANUARY 2013

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **Wind credit extension approved in 'fiscal cliff' deal**—A one-year extension to a wind power credit made it into the final "fiscal cliff" bargain. The fiscal cliff bill also preserved a tweak that allows wind projects under construction, rather than in service, to receive the credit. It also benefited other credits, such as incentives for efficient homes, biofuels, and other measures.
- **Obama: Climate change among top three priorities for second term**—President Obama has identified climate change as one of his top three priorities in his second term after coming under fire from environmentalists for giving the issue short shrift during the campaign.
- **Lisa Jackson's roller coaster EPA tenure parsed**—Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson is leaving her post after four years of battling Republicans and industry while also giving the White House some heartburn along the way over her push for new clean air rules.
- **EPA orders tougher limits on soot**—The agency unveiled final rules that ratchet down the annual exposure standard to 12 micrograms per cubic meter, a 20 percent reduction from the current standard of 15 micrograms.
- **EPA finalizes boiler emissions rules**—Known as boiler MACT rules, the standards impose the first-ever limits on emissions for mercury, acid gases and fine particulate matter, or soot, for boilers and incinerators.
- **Insurers worry about political inaction in the face of rising disaster losses**—Superstorm Sandy exposed the nation's outdated ideas about where and how to build homes and public infrastructure as the pace of disasters, and their costs, is increasing across the United States, insurers and climate advocates said. The House has yet to take up a comprehensive aid package.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Rep. Jim Langevin: *H.R. ____ Building Efficiently Act of 2012**

Bill Summary: The Building Efficiently Act would modify the depreciation life of a building based on its efficiency. Accelerated depreciation presents a powerful tool to encourage greater energy efficiency, allowing developers to recapture costs, and creating a market incentive to build and purchase energy efficient structures.

*Mr. Langevin plans to re-introduce this measure in the 113th Congress.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reps. Van Hollen and Chu join SEEC—[Chris Van Hollen](#) (MD), the Budget Committee's ranking member, and [Judy Chu](#) (CA) add their voices to the Coalition.

Fiscal Cliff Included Extenders Advocated for by SEEC—Throughout the 112th Congress, SEEC Members urged for the extension of clean energy and energy efficiency-related tax credits, using [floor speeches](#) and [letters](#) to highlight the importance of these provisions. Many of the incentives for which the Coalition advocated were included in the final fiscal cliff deal.

SEEC Addresses Sequestration Impacts to Energy and Environment—SEEC Members Reps. [John Sarbanes](#) (MD), [Jim Langevin](#) (RI), [Barbara Lee](#) (CA), [Mike Quigley](#) (IL), [Lois Capps](#) (CA), [Jan Schakowsky](#) (IL), [Ed Perlmutter](#) (CO), and [Judy Chu](#) (CA) took to the House floor to [raise awareness](#) about the consequences of sequestration on water resources, water infrastructure, clean energy development, the electric grid, national labs, national parks, and wildlife management.

Thanking Salazar for Interior's Renewable Energy Work—23 SEEC Members sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Salazar to express thanks for his Department's work to develop renewable energy. Members included co-chairs [Paul Tonko](#) (NY), [Steve Israel](#) (NY), and [Gerry Connolly](#) (VA); vice-chair [Jared Polis](#) (CO); and members [Zoe Lofgren](#) (CA), [John Larson](#) (CT), [Raul Grijalva](#) (AZ), [Mike Honda](#) (CA), [Steve Cohen](#) (TN), [Jim McDermott](#) (WA), [Keith Ellison](#) (MN), [John Sarbanes](#) (MD), [Niki Tsongas](#) (MA), [David Price](#) (NC), [Lois Capps](#) (CA), [Earl Blumenauer](#) (OR), [Jan Schakowsky](#) (IL), [Emanuel Cleaver](#) (MO), [Jim Langevin](#) (RI), [Ben Ray Lujan](#) (NM), [Donna Edwards](#) (MD), [Donna Christensen](#) (VI), and [Barbara Lee](#) (CA).

Sens.-elect Heinrich, Hirono to join Energy committee—SEEC Members Reps. [Martin Heinrich](#) (NM) and [Mazie Hirono](#) (HI) will join the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources when they head to the upper chamber next Congress.

New Caucus to Push Federal Agencies on Energy Efficiency—SEEC Member Rep. [Peter Welch](#) (D-VT) and Rep. [Cory Gardner](#) (R-CO) said the intent of the new caucus is to "push for policies that reduce energy costs, cut pollution and create jobs."

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ♦ **\$28 million:** The amount of money the Department of Energy will award to 7 offshore wind projects.
- ♦ **46.2 percent:** The amount of new electricity generating capacity added from January through October that was renewable.
- ♦ **\$10 million:** How much it would cost to add external sensor cables, a concrete cap, and extra patrols to the 20 miles of the pipeline in Nebraska where a spill would be most disastrous. This is equal to roughly 0.2 percent of the Keystone's \$5.3 billion budget.
- ♦ **35 percent:** The increase in global energy consumption by 2040 as estimated by Exxon Mobil, driven by demand from China and India.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

@RepJohnSarbanes: America's Great Outdoors Initiative fits hand in hand with [#NCLI](#) & progress making enviro ed part of school curricula.